



McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site



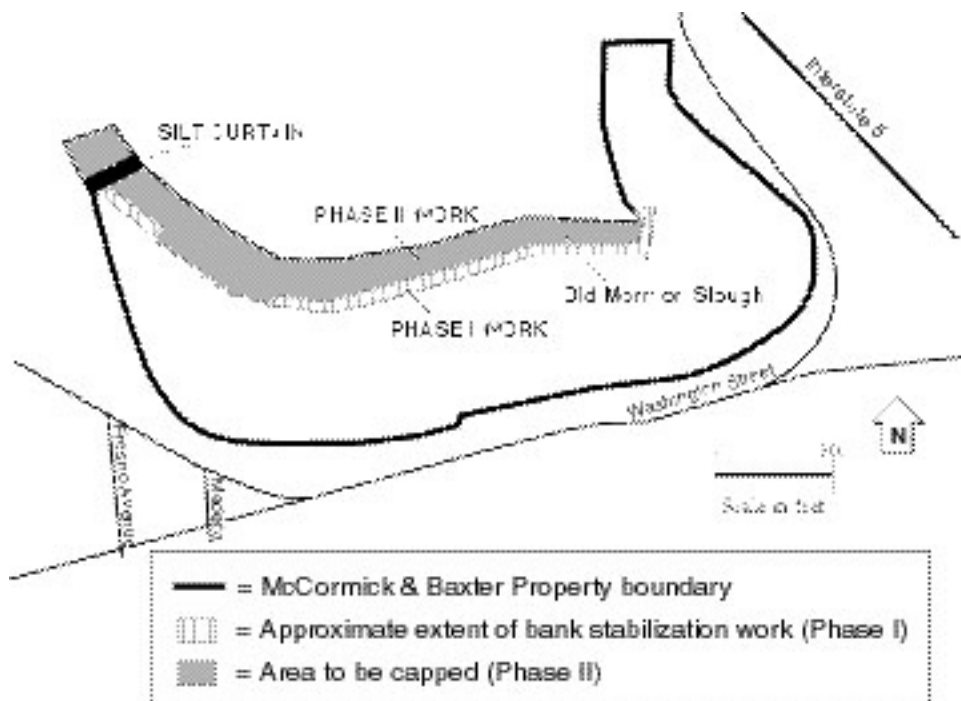
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • AUGUST 2003

Technical Assistance Grant Available Phase I Complete; Houseboat Delays Phase II

Grant available to fund participation in site decision-making

Community groups are eligible to receive a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to fund their participation in site decision-making. A TAG helps the local community hire an independent expert to review site documents, explain the technical issues about the site, and to support the grantee's community outreach efforts. The TAG provides initial funding of up to \$50,000 over three years. Local, incorporated non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. EPA has received a letter of intent to apply for a grant from Delta Keeper, a non-profit water quality monitoring organization based in Stockton. EPA encourages other community organizations

interested in such funding to form a coalition with Delta Keeper since EPA can only provide one such grant for each Superfund site. Contact Bill Jennings from Delta Keeper at 209-464-5090 to discuss collaboration.



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Shoreline stabilization completed

EPA has completed Phase I of the cleanup of contaminated sediment in Old Mormon Slough at the McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site in Stockton, California. Phase I of the sediment remediation involved stabilizing the southern shoreline of the slough by clearing away concrete and debris, cutting back the slope of the bank, installing bank protection material, and building up a new berm with clean fill material. The work was completed between October and December 2002.

Groundwater wells installed

EPA has installed six new groundwater monitoring wells on and near the McCormick & Baxter Site in June. EPA continues to sample monitoring wells regularly to track the contaminated groundwater plume. EPA plans to conduct additional studies to determine the amount of groundwater contamination before selecting a final groundwater remedy. In the meantime, the contamination at the McCormick & Baxter site is not affecting any drinking water wells.

Phase II of sediment remedy delayed

EPA is postponing Phase II of the sediment remediation. This phase, which involves placing a sand cap on the bottom of Old Mormon Slough to isolate the contaminated sediment, was scheduled to begin in July of 2003. However, a large wooden vessel docked in the slough is impeding this part of the remedy. Neither the owner of the vessel nor EPA has been able to find a new berth for the vessel. EPA has decided to allow more time for reaching an agreement with the owner that will meet the needs of both parties. Since we can conduct the work in the slough only during the summer months, this will delay the sediment capping project until next year. Meanwhile, EPA is negotiating with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), which owns a portion of the site, to implement the soil remedy, which calls for capping the dry-land part of the site.

Site History

McCormick & Baxter Creosoting Company operated a wood treating facility from 1946 until 1990. Most operations at the site involved treating wood with preservative solutions in large pressure vessels located in the central portion of the site. After treatment, wood was removed and dried in storage areas. Waste from the treatment process was stored in oily waste ponds in the northwestern portion of the site next to Old Mormon Slough.

These past processing operations caused the contamination of soil, groundwater, and sediment in the slough. McCormick & Baxter filed for bankruptcy in 1988 and continued operating the facility until 1990. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 1992 and became the lead agency to complete investigations at the site and to carry out a final cleanup remedy.

For more information:

Please call **Hector Aguirre** at (415) 972-3238 or leave a message at 800-231-3075.

To find previous fact sheets on EPA's Web site, go to www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/index.html. Select "Fact Sheets," then select "McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site."